

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council terminates UNOMSA mandate; removes item on South Africa from agenda; commends vital role of Mission, Commonwealth and European Union in support of democratic process in South Africa.
- + Secretary-General in report to Security Council on Haiti, notes increased tensions, deterioration in humanitarian crisis and human rights situation since economic sanctions.
- + "Group of 77" adopts Ministerial Declaration at 30th Anniversary meeting; urges leaders of industrialized countries to address obstacles to developing nations's progress.
- + Secretary-General will re-establish United Nations political presence in Afghanistan; appeals for end to fighting; says he is fully satisfied with work of Special Mission.
- + Secretary-General in message marking the International Day against Drug Abuse, stress vital role of women in prevention, treatment and social reintegration of drug abusers.
- + UNPROFOR British soldier killed in Bosnia, as fighting approaches pre cease-fire levels.

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The Security Council today terminated the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA). In unanimously adopting resolution 930 (1994) the Council concluded its consideration of the agenda item on "the question of South Africa", and removed the item from the list of matters of which it is seized.

The Council noted with great satisfaction the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic Government in South Africa, following the recent elections and the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela, on 10 May. It also welcomed the final report of the Secretary-General on UNOMSA. It commended the vital role played by his Special Representative for South Africa

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and UNOMSA in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Commonwealth and the European Union, in support of democracy in South Africa.

The Council had established guidelines for the operation of UNOMSA in resolution 772 (1992) which included efforts to help reduce violence in the country in coordination with the national peace structures. It expanded that mandate and size of the Mission, by resolution 894 (1994) to include the monitoring of the elections.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that since the mandating of economic sanctions against Haiti by the Security Council on 6 May, there had been no progress towards the implementation of the Governors Island Agreement. In a report to the Security Council dated 20 June, the Secretary-General said tensions had increased, as a result of the installation of an illegitimate government, the growing impact of the sanctions and the continued repression and the humanitarian crisis in the country. He also noted the highly unstable security environment, despite guarantees regarding the safety of foreigners by the Haitian regime.

The Secretary-General detailed further sanctions implemented by individual Member States against Haiti, including the ban on all commercial flights and financial transactions by the United States from 24 June. Canada and Panama have also suspended commercial flights and the cordon around the island was tightened, with the deployment of two United States navy vessels to join the 6 other American ships working with one Canadian, one Argentine and one Dutch vessel. Several countries have indicated they will provide technical assistance to the Dominican Republic to ensure control of its land border with Haiti.

Noting the sharp deterioration in the Human rights situation, the Secretary-General said members of the Armed Forces or the Front révolutionnaire pour l'avancement et le progrès (FRAP) were implicated in a growing number of political killings documented by the International Civilian Mission (MICIVH). The Humanitarian situation had also deteriorated, despite efforts by the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS), non-governmental organization and bi-lateral donors. Although exempted from the trade embargo, imports of essential health products and food had decreased considerably and there were problems in the distribution of relief supplies.

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The "Group of 77" developing countries has urged leaders of the Group of 7 most industrialized countries to remove obstacles to the developing nations progress. The call was contained in the Ministerial Declaration, adopted by acclamation on Friday, at a special meeting to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Group of 77. The Declaration reiterated the need to abolish unilateral and arbitrary commercial practices and measures. It also noted tendencies towards new forms of protectionism, particularly attempts to introduce social and environmental clauses to the international trade regime.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the ministerial meeting that a new morality of international development cooperation was needed so that the poorest of the poor would not become marginalized. The 30th anniversary should be an opportunity for the Group to strengthen its ties with the United Nations in their joint search for a more just and humane international community, he said.

The chairman of the Group of 77, Algerian Foreign Minister, Mohamed-Salah Dembri, said it had a special responsibility to redefine the foundation of international cooperation for development. It must inspire a new North-South dialogue to tackle the challenges facing the international community. The Group should maintain its cohesion, broaden its horizon, and reaffirm its originality, creativity and independence, he said.

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Following a progress report by the Head of the Special Mission to Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mastari, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to re-establish a United Nations political presence in Afghanistan. It will be provisionally located in Jalalbad until security conditions permit a permanent return to Kabul, a United Nations spokesman said today. The Secretary-General believes the Organization should continue efforts to address the conflict, after Afghan requests for help in establishing a representative political process in their country. Other steps will include a further visit to Afghanistan by the Special Mission for consultations with Afghan leaders on the establishment of a broad-based political process.

The Secretary-General was fully satisfied with the work of the Special Mission, which canvassed the views of thousands of Afghans throughout the country, the spokesman said. He was impressed by their unanimous desire for peace, and their demands for an immediate end to the fighting and a political process in which all segments of society would participate. The Secretary-General was concerned at the widespread perception among Afghans that external interference in their country was helping to fuel the present hostilities. He was also deeply concerned at recent reports of intensified fighting, particularly in Kabul and Harat and urged those involved to heed the demand of the Afghan people and of the international community that they cease hostilities immediately.

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Women's importance in the prevention, treatment and social reintegration of drug abusers could not be overemphasized, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said in a message marking the International Day against Drug Abuse. The day has been observed on 26 June each year since 1988, when the United Nations General Assembly called for efforts to strengthen action and cooperation at all levels in the fight against drugs. The theme of this year's Day -- "Women, Drug Abuse and Drug Control" -- was intended to draw the attention of world leaders to the issue at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing next year.

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The Secretary-General said one way or another, women were affected by the use of drugs in society, whether or not they themselves used drugs. In South America and in Asia women were the predominant harvesters of coca leaves and opium and an increasing number of women were involved in drug production. Because of their lower status, and the gender roles assigned to them in society, drug-abusing women and the female partners of male drug abusers were particularly at risk, he stressed. Their needs must be addressed in the context of their particular social, cultural and economic environments.

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The failure of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with its obligations under the safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could endanger peace and security in north-east Asia, the Conference on Disarmament was told in Geneva last week. The representative of the Republic of Korea said failure to solve the issue might pose a serious threat to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and, in particular, to the IAEA safeguards regime. It could also cause a costly and destabilizing arms race in the region. Norway said the DPRK's attitude was a challenge to the authority of international law, multinational institutions and the multilateral non-proliferation regime.

The DPRK's representative said the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula had been created by the introduction of nuclear weapons by the South Korean authorities. It was well known that the South had in the past always rejected the DPRK's denuclearization proposals. China responded to criticism over its country's 10 June underground nuclear test, calling on other nuclear-weapon States to give up their policy of nuclear deterrence and commit themselves explicitly to the complete prohibition and total destruction of nuclear weapons.

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A British soldier serving with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was killed over the weekend, when his position came under fire. He was hit by a bullet which came from a Bosnian Serb position, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Meanwhile, cease-fire violations have almost reached the levels occurring prior to the June one-month cease-fire agreement by the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serb authorities, the spokesman said. Fighting is continuing in north-east Bosnia, where Government forces have been on the offensive. UNPROFOR is concerned that the situation will deteriorate further if Bosnian Serbs retaliate.

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